

A NEW COURSE DESIGN ENHANCED WITH ANDRAGOGICAL PRINCIPLES*

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ABSTRACT

Traditionally in pedagogy, children are learning dependently, learning activities are arranged by teachers, information is transferred from teacher to student and teachers are the only source of authority. Therefore, pedagogy needs some new supplementary approaches. Children, nowadays, reach independent learner level at an earlier stage. At this point, andragogical principles can offer some new solutions. Although it is assumed that andragogy deals with adults, actually the main point in andragogical learning process is the consciousness level of learners but not their ages. Thus, andragogy can be implemented to every age level.

Researches show that adults wait for their teachers' approval during the learning processes. They are conditioned doing so because of their pedagogical formal education experiences. In a pedagogical environment, students' sense of wonder is oppressed under the situations where information is transferred from teacher to student without questioning and criticizing. In order to eliminate these shortcomings in pedagogy, andragogy proposes independent and self-directed learners with its six principles.

In formal education enhanced with andragogical principles, children learn issues by relating with their lives, focus on lifelong learning and take their performance as a criteria in the evaluation level. The authority held only by teacher is shared with students. Teacher becomes participatory, collaborative and negotiator while s/he changes his/her role from information transmitter to problem solver. Accordingly, both teacher and students have new roles in such an educational process.

This study aims to represent the effects of andragogical principles in primary school level. The sample of the research consists of 168 students of 8th grade. Students are asked whether they are ready for the process enhanced with andragogical principles and andragogy can contribute anything to their school success. The results of survey reveal that with an 'Agree' point scale, students are ready for an education program enhanced with six basic andragogical principles.

Key Words: Andragogy, Pedagogy, New Course design.

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